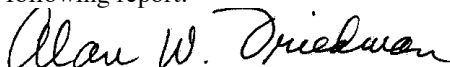


DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
WILLIAM R. HARMER**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Professor Emeritus William R. Harmer, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIAM
WILLIAM R. HARMER**

William (Bill) R. Harmer was born on April 3, 1925, in Mankato, Minnesota, and passed away on May 16, 2018, in Austin, Texas. Bill had a long and distinguished career at The University of Texas at Austin as a faculty member in both the Department of Educational Psychology and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. He came to the University in 1965 and retired in 2000. He served as the Director of the Reading Study Center from 1965 to 1967, then as the Director of the Learning Disabilities Center from 1969 to 1980. One of Bill's outstanding contributions to UT Austin was the renaming of the Learning Disabilities Center to the Learning Abilities Center in 1980. Bill was passionate about the reframing of the Center to reflect a positive attitude toward the abilities of all children. He served as Director of the Learning Abilities Center from 1980 through 1988 and supported the work of faculty and graduate students in Educational Psychology, Special Education, and Curriculum and Instruction. Retired from UT Austin in the fall of 1991, Bill was appointed Professor Emeritus in 1992.

Bill served in the United States Medical Corps during the Second World War, earning two Battle Stars during the period 1943-46 in England, France, and Germany. He returned home to complete his undergraduate degree and taught elementary school from 1950 to 1956. All of his academic degrees were from the University of Minnesota (B.S. in Elementary Education/Music, M.A. in Educational Psychology, and Ph.D. in Education and Psychology). Prior to coming to UT Austin, Bill was a faculty member at Ball State University and the University of South Florida. Bill also served for a period as Research Engineer with the Douglas Aircraft Company in Huntington Beach, California.

Family was important to Bill. Living in Austin for fifty-three of his ninety-three years, he and his wife Marjorie raised three wonderful children. Building the first house in their area of Austin, the Harmers got to name their street. Bill's sense of humor is evident in the name they chose: "The Living End." But Bill's heart was always in Minnesota. There were regular driving trips "home" to visit his many family members in Mankato, which Bill often referred to as "the center of the universe." Bill's father lived to almost one hundred, as did many of his relatives. He took a great deal of pride in knowing everyone's birth year on the faculty. He would refer to friends with the expression: "You're a 1944 model." The faculty who worked with Bill remember him most for his kindness, generosity, and commitment to serving all children well.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professor James Hoffman (Chair), and Professor Emerita Nancy Roser.

Distributed to the Dean of the College of Education on September 4, 2018, and posted under "Memorial Resolutions" at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.